

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO C. DIXON OSBURN—

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to C. Dixon Osburn, co-founder and executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for 13 years. Dixon recently left the helm of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, and today I recognize and commend him for the contributions he has made to our nation's Armed Forces and to our nation's enduring goal of freedom and equality under the law for all Americans.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is a non-profit legal aid and advocacy organization founded in 1993 to assist service members living under the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" statute that became the law in my first months of serving in the United States Congress. Under Dixon's leadership, the organization has responded to more than 8,000 requests for assistance, and continues today to be a leader of the national movement to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

I am proud to have worked with Dixon Osburn toward the goal of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This law has resulted in the discharge of more than 11,000 service members from our Armed Forces, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. It is an affront to the patriotism and talent of the over one million lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans estimated to have served in our nation's Armed Forces to date.

I am proud to serve as the sponsor of legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and I commend Dixon Osburn for all he has done to help lay the ground work for the passage of this important legislation.

HONORING THE CITY OF KILLEEN
ON ITS 125TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, the City of Killeen, Texas celebrates its 125th birthday, today, May 15th, 2007. The City of Killeen was born May 15, 1882, when the Santa Fe Railroad extended its line westward. Named for Frank P. Killeen, an official of the railroad in Galveston, some believe that Killeen may have been among the railroad dignitaries on the train that arrived to mark the beginning of the town, but it has never been confirmed. The town of about 300 people became a shipping point of the area for agricultural products, cotton in particular.

In the next 60 years, the city prospered and grew to over 1,200 people. But in 1942, this small railroad town became home to military post Camp Hood. The military camp's impact

was tremendous more than quintupling Killeen's population in its first few years.

After World War II, the Army was looking for a place to train soldiers in tank destroyer tactics, and Killeen fit the bill. Camp Hood was named for Confederate General John Bell Hood. The initial installation covered 160,000 acres; most of Killeen's best farming land, forcing many families from their homesteads. In 1950, the camp was declared a permanent post changing its name to Fort Hood.

Killeen was now a military town, so its goal became to make it the best town for military families to live. Supporting our soldiers and their families is still the top priority today.

The town and the fort grew together. Killeen worked to develop infrastructure that would incorporate the military base and its needs. Immediate needs were water leading to the construction of Belton Lake and later, Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir; the construction of better highways to meet military and civilian travel needs; major construction to provide housing; and an accompanying growth in retail business.

This small agriculture turned railroad turned military town now has a population of over 100,000 people and is bustling with commerce. Killeen has a young, diverse populous served by good schools and affordable housing and will continue to thrive in its next 125 years.

RECOGNIZING THE TUSKEGEE AIR-
MEN IN CELEBRATION OF
OBERLIN, OHIO'S JUNETEENTH
CEREMONIES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen who were recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, specifically seven men being honored by their home community of Oberlin, Ohio in its annual Juneteenth celebration: Norman E. Proctor, Wayman E. Scott, Ferrier H. White, William Young, Gilbert Cargill, Perry Young, and William L. Williams, Jr.

On March 29, 2007, we were privileged to be witnesses to history as the largest group ever to be awarded a Congressional Gold Medal was honored in the Capitol rotunda. The elder men and their families who joined us that day were there not only to be feted for their own achievements, but represented dozens more of these gallant heroes who could not be there. I am proud that many residents in our own Ninth Congressional District of Ohio were part of this elite cadre of men.

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen continues to unfold, for they were truly unsung heroes of their time. Their outstanding service during World War II became legendary. Even while they fought a common enemy in foreign lands, they also fought racism at home. Despite dis-

crimination they helped to tear down racial barriers in the U.S. armed services. History books tell the story that no U.S. military pilot was African-American prior to World War II. Eventually, in 1941, guided by leaders of the African-American civil rights movement the United States Congress directed the Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit. In June of that year, the 99th Fighter Squadron was formed at the Tuskegee Institute, a well-regarded university founded by national leader Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama. The squadron was placed under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of the few African-American West Point graduates.

During World War II the Tuskegee Airmen flew escort for heavy bombers, established an impressive combat record, and often entered combat against greater numbers of superior German aircraft. By war's end, the unit was credited with shooting down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft and destroying numerous fuel dumps, trucks and trains. The squadrons of the 332nd Fighter Group flew more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions.

The unit was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission flown on March 24, 1945, escorting B-17s to bomb the Daimler-Benz tank factory at Berlin, Germany, an action in which its pilots destroyed three Me-262 jets in aerial combat. The meritorious individual achievements of the pilots were also recognized. Together, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, seven Silver Stars, fourteen Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals. From 1940 to 1946, 992 pilots were trained as Tuskegee Airmen. Of these, 445 went overseas and 150 lost their lives in service to our Nation and freedom's cause.

Booker T. Washington once noted that "A life is not worth much of which it cannot be said, when it comes to its close, that it was helpful to humanity." The corps of airmen who hailed from the school Mr. Washington founded most assuredly fulfilled that destiny. Our world remains profoundly grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on May 9th, during rollcall vote 318, on final passage of H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization bill, I was detained and unable to reach the House floor in time to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On May 14, because of business in Colorado, I was not present for the following three votes:

Rollcall vote 342, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999—had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.